

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method for a computer system comprises
2 receiving a first unsolicited commercial electronic mail message initiated
3 by an e-mail sender;
4 sending a request not to receive any future unsolicited commercial
5 electronic mail messages initiated by the e-mail sender at an electronic mail address
6 where the unsolicited commercial electronic mail message was received;
7 receiving a second unsolicited commercial electronic mail message;
8 automatically determining whether the e-mail sender is in violation of the
9 request, in response to the second unsolicited commercial electronic mail message; and
10 when the e-mail sender is in violation of the request, reporting the
11 violation of the request.

1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein requesting not to receive any future
2 unsolicited commercial electronic mail messages initiated by the e-mail sender comprises
3 sending to the e-mail sender a communication selected from the group: reply electronic
4 mail message, Internet-based communication.

1 3. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
2 storing in a file an e-mail address of the e-mail sender; and
3 wherein automatically determining whether the e-mail sender is in
4 violation of the request comprises comparing an e-mail address of a sender of the second
5 unsolicited commercial electronic mail message to the e-mail address of the e-mail sender
6 in the file.

1 4. The method of claim 1 wherein reporting the violation of the
2 request comprises reporting the violation of the request to one or more of the following: a
3 user associated with the electronic mail address, an internet service provider, a
4 governmental entity.

1 5. The method of claim 4 wherein the governmental entity is selected
2 from the group: law enforcement authorities, state authorities, federal authorities.

1 6. The method of claim 4 wherein the internet service provider is
2 selected from the group: internet service provider associated with the user, internet
3 service provider associated with the e-mail sender.

1 7. The method of claim 16 wherein reporting the violation of the
2 request comprises providing the first unsolicited commercial electronic mail message, the
3 request, and the second unsolicited commercial electronic mail message to the internet
4 service provider.

1 8. The method of claim 1 wherein reporting the violation of the
2 request comprises reporting the violation of the request to a third-party clearing house of
3 request violations.

1 9. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
2 determining an electronic mail rule in response to the first unsolicited
3 commercial electronic mail message initiated by the e-mail sender,
4 wherein the electronic mail rule determines whether subsequent e-mail
5 messages are initiated by the e-mail sender,
6 wherein when a subsequent e-mail was initiated by the e-mail sender, the
7 electronic mail rule generates a violation report;
8 wherein when the subsequent e-mail was initiated by the e-mail sender, the
9 electronic mail rule automatically deletes the subsequent e-mail;
10 wherein automatically determining whether the e-mail sender in violation
11 of the request is performed by the electronic mail rule; and
12 wherein reporting the violation of the request comprises outputting the
13 violation report.

1 10. The method of claim 1 wherein receiving the first unsolicited
2 commercial electronic mail message comprises receiving the first unsolicited commercial
3 electronic mail message via an e-mail interface selected from the group: Outlook,
4 GroupWise, HotMail, Yahoo!, Excite, Earthlink, GeoCities, AOL, Compuserve, Prodigy,
5 MSN.

1 11. The method of claim 7 wherein the internet service provider
2 determines that the second unsolicited commercial electronic mail message includes
3 header information that uses a domain name of the internet service provider without
4 permission of the internet service provider, in response to the violation of the request.

1 12. A method for a computer system comprises

2 receiving reports of unwanted e-mail request violations by e-mail senders
3 from users at user e-mail addresses, wherein each unwanted e-mail request violation
4 includes an indication of a first unsolicited commercial e-mail message initiated by an e-
5 mail sender, an indication of a request to the e-mail sender not to initiate any future
6 unsolicited commercial e-mail messages to a user e-mail address, and an indication of a
7 second unsolicited commercial e-mail message initiated by an e-mail sender in violation
8 of the request;

9 determining whether a number of reports of unwanted e-mail request
10 violations by a specific e-mail sender exceeds a threshold number; and
11 when the number of reports of unwanted e-mail request violations exceeds
12 the threshold number, reporting the unwanted e-mail request violations.

1 13. The method of claim 12

2 wherein reporting the unwanted e-mail request violations comprises
3 providing the reports of unwanted e-mail request violations by the specific e-mail sender;
4 and

5 wherein the threshold number exceeds one.

1 14. The method of claim 12 further comprising:

2 when the number of reports of unwanted e-mail request violations exceeds
3 the threshold number, determining updated filter-out lists to include the specific e-mail
4 sender; and

5 sending the updated filter-out lists e-mail service providers.

1 15. The method of claim 14 wherein the e-mail service providers
2 comprise: internet service providers, HotMail, Yahoo!, Excite, Earthlink, GeoCities,
3 AOL, CompuServe, Prodigy, MSN.

1 16. The method of claim 15 wherein the e-mail service providers
2 filter-out subsequent e-mail messages from the specific e-mail sender in response to the
3 updated filter-out lists.

1 17. The method of claim 13 wherein reporting the unwanted e-mail
2 request violations comprises providing the reports of unwanted e-mail request violations
3 by the specific e-mail sender to a governmental entity selected from the group: law
4 enforcement authorities, state authorities, federal authorities.

1 18. The method of claim 12 wherein the threshold number is selected
2 with respect to a number of reports of unwanted e-mail request violations by other e-mail
3 senders.

1 19. The method of claim 18 wherein the threshold number is selected
2 in response to a number of reports of unwanted e-mail request violations for most
3 frequent e-mail senders;

4 wherein the most frequent e-mail senders are selected from the group
5 comprising: one hundredth, five hundredth, one thousandth.

1 20. The method of claim 12 wherein determining whether a number of
2 reports of unwanted e-mail request violations by a specific e-mail sender exceeds a
3 threshold number further comprises determining whether a threshold number of reports of
4 unwanted e-mail request violations occur within a set time period.

1 21. The method of claim 13 wherein reporting the unwanted e-mail
2 request violations comprises providing the reports of unwanted e-mail request violations
3 by the specific e-mail sender to service providers selected from the group: internet service
4 providers, Yahoo!, Earthlink, GeoCities, AOL, Compuserve, Prodigy, MSN.

1 22. The method of claim 21 wherein the service providers determines
2 whether the specific e-mail sender includes header information that uses a domain name
3 of the service providers without permission of the internet service providers, in response
4 to the violation of the request.

1 23. A computer system comprises:

2 a processor configured to execute code; and

3 a memory coupled to the processor, wherein the memory includes:

4 code that directs the processor to provide a first junk e-mail
5 message initiated by an e-mail sender to a user at a user e-mail address;

6 code that directs the processor to receive a remove request from the
7 user regarding the first junk e-mail message;

8 code that directs the processor to send a request to the e-mail
9 sender not to initiate any future junk e-mail messages to the user e-mail address,

10 code that directs the processor to store the request in the memory;

11 code that directs the processor to determine receipt of a second
12 junk e-mail message initiated by the e-mail sender to the user e-mail address;
13 code that directs the processor to generate a report of a violation of
14 the request in response a determination of receipt of the second junk e-mail message.

1 24. The computer system of claim 23 wherein the report of the
2 violation includes an indication of the first junk e-mail message, an indication of the
3 second junk e-mail message, an indication of the e-mail sender, and an indication of the
4 request.

1 25. The computer system of claim 24 wherein the memory further
2 comprises:
3 code that directs the processor to identify the e-mail sender when a number
4 of reports of violations of requests including an indication of the e-mail sender exceeds a
5 threshold.

1 26. The computer system of claim 23 wherein the memory further
2 comprises:
3 code that directs the processor to send the report of the violation to a third-
4 party server.

1 27. The computer system 26
2 wherein the third party server provides e-mail filtering-out services, and
3 wherein the third party server returns updated e-mail filters in response to
4 the report of the violation.

1 28. The computer system 27 wherein the memory further comprises
2 code that directs the processor to filter-out subsequent junk e-mail
3 messages from the e-mail sender, in response to the updated e-mail filters.

1 29. The computer system of claim 26 wherein the third party server
2 comprises a governmental entity comprising: law enforcement authorities, state
3 authorities, federal authorities.

1 30. The computer system of claim 26 wherein the third party server
2 comprises a service provider associated with the second junk e-mail message.

1 31. The computer system of claim 30 wherein the service provider
2 associated with the second junk e-mail message determines that the second junk e-mail

3 message includes header information that uses a domain name of the service provider
4 without permission of the service provider, in response to the report of the violation.

1 32. The computer system of claim 23 wherein the code that directs the
2 processor to send the request to the e-mail sender comprises code that directs the
3 processor to sending to the e-mail sender a communication selected from the group: reply
4 electronic mail message, Internet-based communication.

1 33. The computer system of claim 32 wherein the memory also
2 includes:
3 code that directs the processor to provide the report of the violation of the
4 request to the user at the user e-mail address.

1 34. A computer program product for a computer system including a
2 processor and a display comprises:
3 code that directs the processor to initiate sending a request to an e-mail
4 sender of a first unsolicited commercial e-mail message to not send any future unsolicited
5 commercial e-mail message to a user e-mail address where the first unsolicited
6 commercial e-mail message was addressed in response to a user input;
7 code that directs the processor to maintain a log of the first unsolicited
8 commercial e-mail message and the request;
9 code that directs the processor to generate a report when a second
10 unsolicited commercial e-mail message to the user e-mail address is from the e-mail
11 sender; and
12 code that directs the processor to output the report;
13 wherein the codes reside on a tangible media.

1 35. The computer program product of claim 34 wherein the request
2 comprises a communication selected from the group: reply electronic mail message,
3 Internet-based communication.

1 36. The computer program product of claim 35 further comprising:
2 code that directs the processor to initiate an e-mail rule configured to filter
3 out e-mail messages from the e-mail sender in response to the user input and the first
4 unsolicited commercial e-mail message.

1 37. The computer program product of claim 36 wherein the e-mail rule
2 is configured to determine if a second unsolicited commercial e-mail message to the user
3 e-mail address is from the e-mail sender.

1 38. The computer program product of claim 34 wherein the report
2 comprises an indication of the first unsolicited commercial e-mail message, the second
3 unsolicited commercial e-mail message, and the request.

1 39. The computer program product of claim 38 wherein code that
2 directs the processor to output the report comprises code that directs the processor to
3 output the report to the user.

1 40. The computer program product of claim 38 wherein code that
2 directs the processor to output the report comprises code that directs the processor to
3 output the report to a party selected from the group: internet service provider, e-mail
4 service provider, third-party server, governmental authority.

1 41. The computer program product of claim 40
2 wherein the report is output to a third party server;
3 wherein the third party server updates a filter-out rule to include the e-mail
4 sender in response to the report; and
5 wherein the computer program product further comprises code that directs
6 the processor to receive and implement the filter-out rule from the third party server.

1 42. The computer program product of claim 40 wherein the report is
2 output to a governmental authority selected from the group: law enforcement agency,
3 state agency, federal agency.

1 43. The computer program product of claim 40 wherein the report is
2 output to a service provider associated with the user e-mail address.

1 44. The computer program product of claim 34 wherein the codes are
2 compatible with e-mail services selected from the group: Outlook, GroupWise, HotMail,
3 Yahoo!, Excite, Earthlink, GeoCities, AOL, Compuserve, Prodigy, MSN.